The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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MILITARY INSURANCE ACCEPTED BY HOUSE

Washington, Sept. 22.—By a vote of 319 to 0 the house passed the soldiers,' sailors' and army and navy nurses' war insurance bill. It is now being considered by a senate committee.

This measure breaks new ground by abandoning the old pension theory during the present war and establishes fixed sums for disabilities, as is the case with workmen's compensation.

Another feature provides that the government will furnish life insurance for soldiers, sailors and nurses at the rate of $8 per $1,000, up to $10,000. This section was opposed by private life insurance companies and the committee reduced the amount of insurance to $5,000, which the house refused to accept. If during the first 120 days after enlistment a soldier or sailor fails to take insurance and dies he will be considered insured and the benefits will go to his dependents.

All soldiers and sailors will be required, under regulations which will be prescribed by the government, to allot to their families a specified part of their salaries. In no instance will it be less than $15 a month. The government will pay to dependent families amounts equal to the allotment made by the soldier or sailor, but the government's allowance shall not exceed $75 a month.

Under family aid [illegible] following payments are made [illegible] the soldier or sailor is in war service:

To a wife, $15 a month; with one child, $25; with two children, $32.50; each additional child, $5.

To a motherless child, $5 a month; two children, $12.50; three, $20; four, $30; each additional child, $5.

One parent, $10; two, $20; for each dependent brother, sister or grandchild, $5.

A divorced wife may receive an amount not to exceed her alimony.

In case of death or total disability the allowances are as follows: To widow, $25 a month; with one child, $45; with two children, $52.50, and $5 for each additional child up to four. To motherless child, $20; two children, $35; three, $45; and $10 for each additional child up to five until they attain the age of 18 years. To widowed mothers, $30.

If there is no widow, a motherless child receives $30; two children, $35; three children, $45, with $10 for each additional child.

CAR SHORTAGE REDUCED.

Washington, Sept. 22.—An indictment of the much-vaunted railroad efficiency is found in a review of the work accomplished in its four months' existence by the railroads' war board, which announces that on April 30 the car shortage throughout the country amounted to 148,627 freight cars, on June 30 77,144, and on August 1 to only 33,776.

In the month of May the freight service rendered by about 75 per cent of the Class I roads was 16.1 per cent greater than the service rendered in 1916, and this in turn was 24 per cent greater than in 1915.

This means, the board calculates, adding in two years to the freight service, an amount equal to the freight traffic of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, and Austria combined. About 20,000,000 miles of train service a year have been saved by eliminating all passenger trains not essential to the most pressing needs of the country. Immense savings in cars are reported by pooling lake coal and lake ore, and tidewater coal. Figures are given showing that every freight car is carrying much more goods than it carried last year.

CO-OPS. ISSUE APPEAL.

Danville, Ill., Sept. 22.—In an appeal to local trade unionists the Danville Co-operative society says:

"Consumers' co-operative stores were started by the working people for the purpose of reducing the cost of living, which would, of course, enable purchasing larger quantities for the same amount of money, and in effect be equal to an advance in wages.

"The co-operative movement is perfectly solvent, and has reached the stage, in practically all civilized countries, for providing food, clothing, housing, fuel, insurance, transportation and entertainment for their membership at a just cost for production and distribution, the extortionate profits returning to the consumer themselves instead of going into the pockets of private interests."

Staunton, Ill., Sept. 22.—At a convention of delegates representing co-operative movements in various sections of the country it was voted to start a wholesale department.

NAVY YARD WORKERS GAIN.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The navy yards and arsenals wage committee, made up of representatives of the federal departments of war, navy and labor, has revised wages paid in arsenals and navy yards. The increases in maximum rates average nearly 10 per cent.

Heretofore most of the skilled trades have been graded into five rates, the men in the lowest rates receiving often little more than unskilled labor. Hereafter there will be but three rates, the lowest to be paid not more than $1.04 a day less than first class men. For instance, if the top rate for machinists is $4.64 a day, the third rate must be at least $3.60, instead of as at present in some cases as low as $2.64.

OXMAN ON TRIAL.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—The trial of F. C. Oxman, accused of having attempted to induce F. E. Rigall to give perjured testimony in the case of Thos. J. Mooney, defendant in the preparedness day bomb cases, is now on in Judge Dunne's court. Attorney General Webb has charge of the prosecution. District Attorney Fickert, who prosecuted Mooney, is not connected with the Oxman prosecution because he is involved in the accusations made against Oxman.

NO LABOR SCARCITY.

Denver, Sept. 22.—Fruit growers in the western part of Colorado are securing necessary workers through the state free employment agencies, according to State Labor Commissioner Morrissey.

SLATE WORKERS WIN.

Schenectady, N. Y., Sept. 22.—Organized slate workers on strike at four Granville quarries have secured an agreement and returned to work.

UNIONISTS TO CONFER.

Joliet, Ill., Sept. 22.—The annual convention of the Illinois state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning October 15.

ARIZONA GUN MEN FAIL TO "JOLLY" UNIONISTS

Washington, Sept. 22.—Last week nearly a score of men, introducing themselves as "citizens of Bisbee, Arizona," called on President Gompers to pay their respects, they said, "to the greatest labor 'leader' in the world." They were in Washington, their spokesman continued, to assist copper operators in maintaining prices of not less than 25 cents a pound, which would permit of a sliding scale for workers. President Gompers opposed a sliding scale unless the minimum rate provides a living wage. The deportation of Bisbee workers, last July, was then discussed, and the visitors deplored this incident, while lauding the A. F. of L. and condemning the I. W. W.

Praise for the trade union movement just ended when John Murray, representing the Arizona state federation of labor, stepped into the room.

"I was a member of a committee appointed by the recent Clifton convention of the Arizona state federation of labor to visit Bisbee," said Murray, "and this man," pointing to a visitor," was one of the gun men who stopped us outside of Bisbee and turned us back. Here is another," continued Murray.

With characteristic bravado the gun men met the steady gaze of the trade unionists, who included President Gompers, Secretary Morrison, Legislative Representative Hamilton and Charles E. Moyer, president, and other representatives of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, who identified other gun men.

The gun men, the "Bisbee citizens," and the trade unionists then adjourned to a larger room where an hour's conference, presided over by Secretary Morrison, brought further protests of admiration for trade unionism by the visitors, who stated they had no authority to speak for the copper companies, but they were "delighted" with their reception.

"You wear a different face in Washington than you did in Bisbee," said Murray. Secretary Morrison's suggestion that the delegation urge trade unionism on its return to Bisbee was answered by the statement that "we will surely tell of our courteous treatment here."

The price of copper was not mentioned again by the visitors who were kept busy dodging verbal bricks hurled at them by the trade unionists.

The conference was fruitless, except possibly that the Bisbeeites were impressed with the fact that they didn't fool any one around A. F. of L. headquarters.

"PATRIOTS" VIOLATE LAW.

Bisbee, Ariz., Sept. 22.—Regardless of the fact that the laws of this state permit picketing, the Bisbee "Loyalty" league has induced city authorities to pass an ordinance against picketing.

Men applying for work in the Warren district are still compelled to be examined by county officials and the "Loyalty" league and if these "patriots" are not satisfied with the answers the worker is ordered to leave the district.

In Globe, where union miners are on strike, the chamber of commerce has taken over the work of the "Loyalty" league, and has inaugurated the same system, which is intended, says these business men, to protect the community "from murderers and bootleggers," although the community is filled with gun men employed by copper interests.

At Clifton a meeting was called to organize a "Loyalty" league, but the unionists captured it by exposing the league's methods. A committee was then appointed to attempt to settle the strike and at a later meeting the strikers were given a vote of thanks by the citizens for their willingness to do all in their power to adjust differences.

WEEPS FOR CHILDREN.

Baltimore, Sept. 22.—W. E. Robinson, a Belair, Md., canner, is heartbroken because the Keating-Owen child labor law has forced him to employ men and women instead of little children. In a letter to a local newspaper Mr. Robinson says:

"Since the first of September I have not permitted these boys and girls to work in my factory. They are healthful, industrious youngsters, and the work they have been doing was very beneficial to them, mentally and physically. But my heart aches for them now. Their parents are all at work in the factory. Where are these husky boys and girls; what are they doing?

"The advocates of this child labor law have undertaken a serious responsibility. I sincerely trust the Supreme Court of the United States will declare it unconstitutional, and I hope congress can wake up to the absurdity of it, as it now stands, and repeal or at least modify it."

INDICT LOW WAGE PLAN.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Low wages and long hours were indicted by Probation Officer Heney of the District of Columbia, at an unemployed conference, under the auspices of the federal department of labor.

"I have found," he said, "that much of the suffering and the conditions which bring petty offenders before the courts are due to insufficient wages and long hours of labor. These men are not criminals either instinctively or by hereditary traits but some contingency has arisen, either sickness or other misfortune, that they are unable to meet financially and they seek solace by methods that land them before the courts."

48 HOURS FOR WOMEN.

Lawrence, Mass., Sept. 22.—At the annual convention of the state branch, A. F. of L., the legislative committee was instructed to present a bill to the next general assembly for a 48-hour work week for women. Delegates were urged to work through their local and central organizations to defeat the members of the house and senate who defeated this measure at the last session and who are now seeking re-election.

WAITERS ENJOINED.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 22.—An injunction has been issued against striking waiters who demand a minimum wage of $14 for a week of seven days, 11 hours a day. Several restaurants have signed this scale, while others have pronounced it "unreasonable" and have rushed to the court for protection. These concerns object to being classified as unfair.

SHIP BUILDERS STRIKE.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 22.—Organized employes of wooden ship companies on the Willamette and Columbia rivers are on strike for higher wages.

INJUNCTION PROCESS MOCKS CONSTITUTION

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 22.—"In this city, the home town of the governor who vetoed the anti-injunction bill, let us declare in unmistakable tones that the extension of powers by the judiciary shall cease forthwith," declared Paul Scharrenberg, secretary-treasurer of the state federation of labor, in a Labor day speech.

The unionist referred to Governor Stephens' recent veto of an anti-injunction bill.

"Government by injunction," continued the speaker, "is government in defiance of the will of the governed. If the courts would be respected, as undoubtedly they should be, they must be taught to respect the power that creates them—the sovereign people of the nation.

"Here and now we demand the enactment of a law which shall make illegal the issuance of injunctions prohibiting the doing by any number of men of that which is not illegal when done by one man. We demand the restitution to the trade unionists of those rights to which they are entitled in common with every citizen. We demand the abolition of the assumed power of the judiciary under which, in the guise of equity and in the name of 'contempt of court,' a single man combines in his own person the characters of plaintiff, judge, jury and executioner. We demand that the courts themselves shall be made to recognize the primary principle of jurisprudence, namely, that an accused person must be confronted by his accuser and tried by a jury of his peers.

"The injunction that prohibits the exercise of constitutional rights is intolerable; the injunction that would deny the man accused of crime the right to a trial by constitutional methods is no less so. In either case the inevitable result is the destruction of the indispensable safeguards of justice.

"It is the uniform record of history that the liberties of the people are never openly attacked. It is equally a matter of record that those liberties are constantly in danger from machination. The innovation of today is the precedent of tomorrow. The working people of the United States must now be up and doing as never before, if they would preserve the birthright conferred upon them by their forefathers."

PACKERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 22.—Organized butcher workmen have forced recognition of committees as a result of a general strike of packing house employes. Other gains include wage increases, reinstatement of all strikers, the right of discharged men to appeal to the superintendent and the right to send grievances to employers.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 22.—The strike of several thousand packing house employes has been ended with the aid of representatives of the federal department of labor. The packers will recognize committees, permit workers to join unions, will not discriminate, will reinstate all strikers and will raise wages 2½ cents an hour immediately and will give further increases if investigation shows that rates elsewhere are higher. All hiring is to be done from one central office and a worker will have the right to appeal to the manager of the plant in which he is employed when he believes he is unfairly treated.

ACCIDENTS INCREASE.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 22.—Nearly 300 more industrial accidents were reported to the state department of labor and industries during August than during July. The total for the month was 2,926, of which 496 were serious and 2,430 were minor. Accidents to women numbered 87 as against 77 in July. Fatal accidents also showed a big increase, 19 as compared with 11 in the previous month.

The increase in accidents does not apply to only one or two industries, but is made up of slight increases in a great many industries.

The report does not include railroad accidents or any others that do not fall within industries covered by the workmen's compensation law. The reason for the increase is not yet clear, but it is thought by the department to be due either to greater industrial activity or to changes in the labor force, breaking in of many new men, etc.

MUST OBEY LABOR LAW.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Secretary of War Baker has notified the adjutant general of the army to instruct all department commanders that children under 14 years of age are not to be employed at government forts, posts or other reservations. Children between the ages of 14 and 16 can not be employed more than eight hours a day, or more than six days a week, or between the hours of 7 p. m. and 6 a. m. All employers on government reservations shall be required to keep a daily time record showing the hours of employment for each child between 14 and 16 years.

AGREE ON "FAIR WAGE."

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Sept. 22.—The fair wage board has announced rates for building craftsmen of Winnipeg and within 30 miles thereof. In most cases wages are advanced 5 cents an hour. Electricians are increased 10 cents and plumbers and gas fitters 7 1-2 cents.

The board consisted of two members of the builders' exchange, two members of the building trades council, and a representative of the government.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Sept. 22.—Web Pressmen's union No. 35 has signed a three-years' agreement with newspaper publishers in this city. The journeymen scale provides: First year—Day, $26.50 a week; night, $27.50; foreman, $31.50. Second year—Day, $28; night, $29; foreman, $33. Third year—Day, $29; night, $30; foreman, $34.

SHOP MEN RAISE WAGES.

Boston, Sept. 22.—Nearly 4,000 shop men employed by the Boston and Maine railroad have raised wages after a short strike. The men asked for a flat increase of 8 cents an hour. The settlement provides that rates will be advanced 5 cents an hour and the disputed 3 cents submitted to arbitration.

LONG HOURS CAUSE STRIKE.

Chicago, Sept. 22.—A seven-day work week and unsanitary conditions at the Hyman's hat factory, South Chicago, compelled nearly 300 girls to suspend work. Representatives of the Hatters' union are assisting the girls.

"NO-STRIKE" SCHEME IS TRAP FOR UNIONS

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 22.—"Beware of the joker" is the Tacoma Daily News' warning to organized labor against the plan of 150 manufacturers at Washington, who have asked the council of national defense to call a meeting of trade unionists to discuss their "no-strike" plan.

The scheme includes no change in union and non-union shops—the manufacturers call them "open" and "closed" shops; there shall be no strikes or lockouts; no changed conditions, "nor shall any combination of workmen undertake during the like period (of the war) to close an open shop."

The Tacoma Daily News sustains organized labor in its suspicion of this scheme, and the editor says:

"While this paragraph is neatly phrased and would seem to apply with equal force to the employer who desired to change working conditions as well as to unions desirous of taking in non-union workers, it is fraught with much danger. It is the desire of the manufacturers, as set forth in their petition to the council, to stabilize the labor situation during the period of the war. By this is meant that the national council of defense shall formulate such legislation and rules as will make it illegal to do certain things—applying these rules with equal force to employers as well as employes, actual or prospective. Therein comes the rub. It will be noted, in the paragraph quoted, that the word 'undertake' is used in both clauses.

"There is little likelihood that employers will care to 'undertake' changes so long as they are getting work done. But how about the unions? The work of organizing men into unions is far from finished. Organizers constantly are 'undertaking' to bring in new members and to put them under union jurisdiction.

"Will union organizers come under the prohibitions sought to be established by the manufacturers? If such is the contemplated effect of the movement, the project had as well be abandoned at once. The right of men to organize for mutual benefit cannot be abridged."

DENY FREE ASSEMBLAGE.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 22.—Several thousand workers in this city struck as a protest against the action of authorities in refusing trade unionists to parade to a park where a meeting was to be held on behalf of striking street car men.

When the unionists were notified they could not parade they started in small groups for the park. In a statement "to the people of the state of Illinois," the unionists explain further proceedings:

"About 10 blocks from the center of the city they were headed off by several policemen and officers of militia in an automobile, who lined up across the street in front of them. They called on the men to halt. They immediately halted. There was no attempt to arrest any one. On a refusal to run, a militia officer fired at a flag bearer. The bullet went through the flag, struck a man behind in the leg, then hit the pavement, glanced, and then struck another man in the breast. A militia company came up then and bayoneted men right and left. Altogether there were 40 men struck with bayonets. Even under all the outrages committed there is no claim that any union man or sympathizer created any disorder or committed an overt act."

Later the unionists held a monster mass meeting. The general strike order was issued and city officials were denounced for their failure to protect citizens, and for "causing them to be wilfully assaulted, shot and stabbed without any provocation." The unionists pledged themselves to circulate recall petitions against the mayor and a subordinate.

FAVOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The senate committee on woman suffrage has voted to report the federal suffrage amendment with favorable recommendation. The measure provides for the submission to the state legislatures of an amendment to the federal constitution enfranchising women. A two-thirds vote by both branches of congress is necessary. It is not expected the amendment will be acted on at this extraordinary session, which was called for war purposes, but the bill will be on the calendar ready for a vote when congress meets in regular session, next December.

The senate has authorized the Hawaiian legislature to give women who have property and other qualifications of men the right to vote in territorial elections. The legislature is also authorized to submit to the territory the question of giving women unrestricted suffrage there.

ARREST STRIKEBREAKERS.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—Officers of the Street Car Men's union have made public the police records of strikebreakers arrested since the strike of United Railroads' employes started last month. The list includes 98 strikebreakers, charged with attempting to commit murder, shooting into crowds, assault with deadly weapons, etc., etc.

To disprove charges that the strikers are armed these unionists permitted themselves to be searched at a meeting in the Labor temple. Not a gun was found among the 1,600 present.

IRON AND SHIP MEN OUT.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—In an effort to secure higher wages 25,000 metal workers and ship builders suspended work. Employers charge that the strike was largely prompted by sympathy for striking street car men, who are demanding higher wages. The iron trades council denies this charge, and in a public statement says "employers are getting all the war profits while all the men ask is a wage sufficient to maintain their families in decent comfort.'

STREET CAR MEN CONFER.

Providence, R. I., Sept. 22.—At the convention of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes President Mahon reported that record gains were made the past year, despite several large strikes, which include San Francisco, Springfield, Ill., and Chattanooga, Tenn.

HOMESTEADERS BENEFIT.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The senate has passed a bill which permits homesteaders to leave their land during the war to engage in farm labor without forfeiting their rights.

8 HOURS FOR MILL MEN.

Seattle, Sept. 22.—Mill men in this city have secured the eight-hour day with 10 hours' pay in every factory but one.

FORCED ARBITRATION NO LABOR SOLUTION

Cincinnati, Sept. 22.—"The more we become acquainted with the conditions affecting trade unionists under compulsory arbitration in Australia and New Zealand, the more cause we have for being on the alert to prevent any such system being introduced in America, regardless of the form in which it may be advocated," says Editor Frey in the International Molders' Journal.

"Regardless of what theories may have been advanced concerning governmental regulation of the terms of employment, the one fact that stands out prominently is that such legislation, in practice, works to the employers' advantage and takes from labor the necessary liberty which it must have to adequately protect itself.

"The strongest weapon which the workers have developed to assist them in dealing with the terms of employment is the power to strike. When this power can be taken from labor, the employers are placed in a position where the advantages lay almost entirely in their hands.

"The governmental report for the month of July, 1916, prepared by the department of labor and industry for New South Wales, indicates that the law has not prevented strikes, but that it has enabled the governmental machinery, operating through the courts, to punish strikers if this is deemed advisable.

"During July of that year some 22,539 wage earners in New South Wales ceased work because of industrial disputes, 53,562 days all told being lost from this cause.

"There are two principle methods advocated for the purpose of working out the wage earners' industrial salvation, so far as the terms of employment are concerned. One, the legislative, and the other, the trade union. So far, the history of the legislative method contains no evidence that it is to be depended upon to safeguard labor's essential rights. Instead its tendency is to limit labor's freedom of action."

RULES FOR DRAFT APPEALS.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Provost Marshal General Crowder has notified the governors of all states that all appeals in draft cases must come direct to district boards and cannot be received if sent direct to the president, the provost marshal general, members of congress or to any other place than to the district board itself.

"The only cases in which there is an appeal to the president," it is stated, "are cases in which a claim for discharge on the grounds of engagement in agriculture or industry has been made to the district board. There is no appeal to the president from the action of the local board in dependency or other cases, whose determination is then the jurisdiction of the local board.

"All attempts to appeal cases other than those involving the decision of the district board on agricultural or industrial exemptions from whatever source received; all affidavits, letters, arguments, evidence, papers, or other matters not considered by the district board; all appeals made to the president direct or sent to any other official or person in Washington, will have to be returned to the sender."

FREE SPEECH DEFINED.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—In defining what constitutes free speech Judge Van Fleet of the federal district court said:

"No man has a right to carry the liberty of free speech to a point which interferes with the due execution of the law, where his opposition is not an honest one and is actuated wholly by the intention of expressing his views. Some times individuals will give expression to views which may have an effect upon the execution of the laws. But if they are honestly and conscientiously expressed, it is, under our constitution, the liberty of free speech.

"The citizens have a perfect right to discuss any measure; they have a perfect right to criticise the judgment of the courts or legislative acts.

"No man has a right to advise his neighbor or the public, to obstruct the execution of the law. That is beyond the liberty of free speech."

OPPOSE GUN MEN.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 22.—The central trades and labor union has asked the state federation of labor to prepare legislation against private detective agencies for submission to the next general assembly. It is stated that these agencies "have always been a menace and obstacle to the working class in its struggle for better conditions, as they tend to destroy the amicable relations that should exist between employe and employer, and besides they also undertake to do police duty, which should be properly performed by the civil authorities."

WILL ENFORCE LABOR LAW.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The children's bureau of the federal department of labor has instructed its representatives throughout the country to see that the Keating-Owen child labor law is enforced. The ruling of Federal Judge Boyd of North Carolina that this law is unconstitutional only applies to the jurisdiction of that court. Friends of the law declare that employers of child labor are behind the suit brought before Judge Boyd and expect a bitter fight all the way to the United States supreme court.

WOMEN ARE PAID LESS.

Dallas, Tex., Sept. 22.—Women are being substituted for drafted men, and are paid one-half the wages paid men, reports Earl Ferguson, state organizer of the Texas state federation of labor.

"Organized labor should use every influence to remedy this evil," says Ferguson, "even to the extent of withdrawing their patronage from firms of this kind."

METAL WORKERS WIN.

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 22.—A proposed wage reduction of 20 per cent caused a strike of 200 sheet metal workers employed at the Overland automobile plant.

The order was rescinded and now a new union of these workers has a membership of over 200.

TWO-PLATOON FOR FIREMEN.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 22.—Municipal firemen and city authorities have arranged a two-platoon system by dividing the force into two shifts.

METAL POLISHERS WIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 22.—Organized metal polishers have settled their strike against the American Picture and Show Case company.

OPPOSE TAYLOR SYSTEM IN FAR-AWAY AUSTRALIA

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, Sept 22.—The government-owned railroads of New South Wales are tied up because of an attempt to enforce the American-discredited "Taylor" system on employes.

Over 7,000 engineers, firemen and metal workers suspended work after the government refused to submit the question to an impartial tribunal.

The objectionable plan establishes a speeding up system and provides that sub-foremen shall keep a time record of work done by employes, who do not see the cards and do not know what is put on them. Under this system men are called upon to explain reasons for slow workmanship, in some cases several weeks after the particular work was performed by them and after they had forgotten the reason for losing a few minutes' time.

The strikers answer the government's claim that the new system is a money saver by showing that the scheme necessitates the appointment of about 140 sub-foremen at wages varying from $1,000 to $1,900 a year with all staff privileges and first-class passes on the railroads, in addition to extra clerks.

The men also claim that the government has violated its pledge that no alterations of working conditions will be introduced during the war period.

Since the strike started, the workers charge other "sweating" methods on the government-owned railroads, and that there have been times when they were afraid to give evidence before the arbitration court, for fear of being penalized. Engineers say they have not received a wage increase in 15 years, despite increases in the cost of living

A vicious spy system has also been installed by the government.

A feature of the strike is the collections taken up at the end of a run by passengers who sympathize with the government. These collections are handed to strikebreaking engineers and firemen, although the government railway and tramway by-laws provide:

"No person shall give or offer a gratuity to any employe of the chief commissioner under a penalty of £2 ($10)."

DEFEAT TAYLOR SYSTEM.

Washington, Sept. 22.—With the news of a strike of New South Wales government railroad employes against the Taylor system, trade unionists in this city recall their successful fight in the last two congresses against this and other stop-watch schemes. Trade unionists were combatted by anti-union manufacturers, who attempted to have the government adopt the plan for the moral effect in their shops. The workers succeeded in checking this movement by securing anti-stop watch provisions in the naval, fortifications, army and sundry civil appropriations bills.

One of the strongest arguments was a decision by the solicitor of the federal department of labor, who ruled in favor of compensation to a worker employed at the Mare Island (Cal.) navy yard who was suffering from a nervous breakdown because of one of these systems.

"Under this system," said the solicitor, "a time man equipped with tablet, lead pencil and stop watch, sat in front of the worker to find out how long it takes to do a certain piece of work. The report to headquarters was your future standard for that class of work.

"The Halsey system is designed to get out of the men employed under it the greatest possible amount of work he can do in a given time, with the fear ever hanging over his head that a failure to keep up to the standard will cause him to lose his job.

"It certainly seems that such treatment of a man engaged in heavy manual labor, necessitating also the use of the intellect, would be sufficient to upset the mind of an ordinary individual and produce insanity."

PACIFIC MAIL PROSPERS.

New York, Sept. 22.—The annual report of the Pacific Mail Steamship company shows that for the six months ended June 30, 1917, this company earned $3.04 a share on its common stock, par value $5 a share, which, if continued, will give it earnings of over 100 per cent on its common stock during the year 1917. This is exclusive of dividend requirements on the $1,700,000 of preferred stock outstanding.

When the seamen's bill was signed by President Wilson, two years ago, Pacific Mail was the strongest objector to this legislation, which would result, the public was assured, in destroying America's merchant marine. Now it is discovered that the company prospers without its large percentage of coolie labor.

MANY ALIENS AFFECTED.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 22.—Aliens who have refrained for seven years from applying for their final naturalization papers, will be exempted from conscription, but at the same time, will lose whatever benefits accured to them under the labor laws of New York state by their act in filing first papers, according to an opinion by Attorney General Lewis.

The ruling will affect thousands of aliens, many of whom have obtained employment upon public works by reason of the declaration of their intentions to become citizens.

WHAT UNIONISM HAS DONE.

Peoria, Ill., Sept. 22.—In a welcoming address to the state building trades council Mayor Woodruff said:

"Unionism has created for the average wage earner the means of living as decent men should. It has resulted in the shortening of the 12 and 14-hour work day to an eight-hour basis and has been instrumental in securing a wage scale for nearly all working men."

BUILDING TRADES WIN.

Wichita, Kan., Sept. 22.—Organized building contractors have failed in their attempt to destroy the building trades council and have signed a contract with the latter organization. It took a two-months' strike to convince the contractors that industrial war don't pay.

WANT SEMI-MONTHLY PAY.

Louisville, Ky., Sept. 22.—The united trades and labor assembly has petitioned city authorities to enact a semi-monthly pay law for municipal employes.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Washington, Sept. 22.—With a membership of over [illegible] Painters' union No. [illegible] has raised wages from [illegible] a day to [illegible] without striking.

UNFAIR EMPLOYERS REAPING WHIRLWIND

Indianapolis, Sept. 22. — Scattered through the country are groups of embittered, irreconcilable working men because of the actions of those employers who have violated every right sacred to Americans, says the United Mine Workers' Journal.

"These working men are not affiliated with any legitimate labor union," continues this paper. "They do not seek working agreements with the employers. They recognize no country because they have no stake in the country; they do not respect the law because they feel that the law has never protected them. Yet, among these workers there are in proportion to their numbers more who are American-born, more of the earlier immigrants from England, Ireland, northern European countries, than can be found in any of the factories, the mines or mills represented by the gentlemen who met in Washington.

"The reason for this is obvious. Many of these, most of these, are the men who have been deported, blacklisted, driven to desperation, denied a home. There is the fruit of the system these gentlemen would preserve in the hour of their country's need. Enemies of their country? Possibly, yes, but the greater enemies are those who have destroyed the faith of these men in their country's government.

"The results of their successful opposition in the past are not so beneficial to the country and to the working people of the country as to induce us to forego the usual functions of our unions—education, organization, collective bargaining.

"If we can bring about conditions now that would make the future safe for the workers from the horrors of wholesale deportations, such as we have experienced in the past, we should feel justified, having in mind only real interests of the country, in going forward with the work of organization even to the extent of demanding and insisting upon recognition of the unions, of direct negotiations with the unions on the part of those who in the past have been able to defeat our hopes and our efforts."

FARM LOANS AT 1 PER CENT.

Minneapolis, Sept. 22.—Chas E. Lobdell, member of the government's farm loan board, speaking before the Farm Mortgage Bankers' association convention, predicted that farm mortgages will soon be made at a 1 per cent rate. Bankers who cannot operate on that basis were advised to withdraw from business.

"It would be foolish," he said, "to say that the farm loans act won't hurt your business; that is one of the things it was intended to accomplish.

"Already it has reduced rates on loans to nearly 1 per cent. You may as well realize that it is a real competitor and that you are going to feel it in loss of business and much more in loss of margin.

"The days of the 2, 3 and 4 per cent spread between borrower and lender in this country are numbered. The business must come to a 1 per cent basis. The new law has come to stay and might as well be accepted as part of our economic policy."

Mr. Lobdell's statements followed the annual address of F. W. Thompson, of Chicago, president of the association, who criticised the federal act and asserted that the mortgage bankers were facing a serious situation, because of the shrinkage in profits resulting from competition of the federal farm loan banks. He predicted test suits against certain features of the law.

RECORD IN COAL MINING.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 22.—Scarcity-of-coal claims are not sustained by the August report of the anthracite bureau of information, which states that coal mined in August amounted to 7,013,996 tons, the second time in the history of anthracite mining that the shipments in any one month exceeded 7,000,000 tons. The August figures are within 35,051 tons of the high water mark, made in June of last year.

The shipments for the eight months of 1917 amounted to 51,405,241 tons, an increase of 7,019,001 tons, or almost 16 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. The total shipments to date are 1,474,955 tons in excess of the tonnage shipped in the first nine months of 1916.

MORE WOMEN IN SHOPS.

Wilmington, Del., Sept. 22.—The Pullman shops and the Eastern Malleable Iron company are the latest industries in this city to engage women to do manual labor formerly done by men. It is stated that the women are employed for the "lighter" work in machine repair shops and foundry. The women wear overalls and jumpers, after the fashion of men. At the Carney's Point, N. J., plant of the du Pont powder works arrangements are being made to increase the force of 200 women in the smokeless powder department.

BAKERS MAKE FINE GAIN.

Cleveland, Sept. 22.—Bakers' union No. 19 has signed an agreement with the Speck Baking company which has branches throughout the city.

The firm attempted to check unionism by offering inducements to individual workers, but when this failed it recognized the organization.

Hamilton, Ohio, Sept. 22.—The Kroger Grocery and Baking company has signed an agreement with the Bakers' union.

GIRLS ENJOINED.

Trenton, N. J., Sept. 22.—A bunch of working girls on strike at the Trenton shirt factory for living conditions have been enjoined on the plea of the company that the girls are "interfering with business."

$7 FOR PLUMBERS.

Casper, Wyo., Sept. 22.—Organized plumbers are coping with the high cost of living and have established a new wage rate of $7 a day. On the first of last July they raised wages to $6 a day.

CITY FIREMEN UNITE.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 22.—Municipal firemen have organized and are chartered by the American Federation of Labor. Similar Illinois organizations exist in Chicago, East St. Louis and Rock Island.

BUTCHERS ORGANIZE.

Seattle, Sept. 22.—The strike in slaughter houses and packing plants in this city has resulted in the formation of another Butcher Workmen's union with [illegible] members.

LABOR GREETS RUSSIA IN STIRRING MESSAGE

Washington, Sept. 22.—Greetings from American labor to the democracy of Russia has been cabled to Premier Kerensky by Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L. and president of the American alliance for labor and democracy.

The cablegram follows:

"At a tremendous important national conference of three days of representatives of labor and socialists, at Minneapolis, Minn., September 5, 6, and 7, called to solidify working class and all people of the United States, among other declarations, the following was adopted with great enthusiasm and without a dissenting voice or vote.

"We address ourselves to thee.

"Sons of liberty in all lands are now watching with heavy hearts the desperate contest of their brothers in spirit and arms now battling on the plains of Russia. Born amidst the thunders of the greatest war of all time, the great Russian democracy brought to all lovers of man's freedom a new hope and inspiration. Assailed on all sides by a terrible and insidious foe, now spreading death and devastation in its ranks and now masquerading as a friend and penetrating under the guise of a revolutionist into the very councils of the revolution, the Russian democracy is now passing through the most critical time in its struggle for existence.

"The American alliance for labor and democracy sends greetings to the fighters for liberty in Russia as brothers in the same cause. The aims of the Russian democracy are our aims; its victory is our victory and its defeat is our defeat; and even the traitors that assail the Russian democracy likewise assail us. In the conflict for the liberty of Russia, the liberty of America is likewise at stake. Every Russian soldier who faces unflinchingly the enemy in the field is striking a blow for the liberty of America.

"The American alliance for labor and democracy, representing every loyal thought of American labor and American socialism, pledges and dedicates the American working class to the support and service of the Russian democracy. It calls upon the working people and the socialists of America and also upon the government of the United States to strain every effort and resource in their command to the aid of the Russian democracy."

1,300,000 HIDES STORED.

New York, Sept. 22.—The New York World says that tanners and wholesale leather dealers estimate that more than 1,300,000 sole leather hides and about 300,000 hides suitable for "uppers" are being held in storage warehouses in this city and vicinity at the orders of packers, importers and speculators who are "holding out" for a higher market.

Although the prices for shoe leather hides are higher to-day than ever before known—more than twice as high as they were in 1906—the companies dealing in hides refuse to sell at these prices, and the tanners and brokers who supply the shoe manufacturers who have orders for the United States army are having difficulty in filling the orders.

"And yet," says the World, "a visit to any good retail shoe store will prove to any wearer of shoes that he must pay from $1 to $4 more for a pair of shoes this year than he did in 1915. Shoes that retailed at $7 and $8 a pair have jumped to $9, $10, $11 and $12, depending on where one gets them. The very best made shoes that formerly retailed at $10 and $12, now bring $11 to $16."

The leather dealers, tanners and brokers unanimously place the blame for present conditions on packers and importers who, it is asserted, control the hide market not only in this country, but in South America. At the same time they are inclined to accuse the manufacturers of doing a little holding out themselves.

APPEAL MOONEY CASE.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—Attorneys for Thomas J. Mooney are perfecting a regular appeal to the state supreme court after losing their first battle before that tribunal which denied the motion of Attorney General Webb that Mooney be given a new trial because of the expose of Oxman, the state's chief witness, who is charged with committing perjury.

In refusing Attorney General Webb's plea the state supreme court held that it has no power under the constitution to consider matters outside the record in the case. The court refused to consider the Oxman perjury charges, which were developed after Mooney was found guilty.

Mooney's appeal for a reversal of judgment on the record of the case is not affected by the Webb decision, according to his counsel.

OPPOSE STATE INSURANCE.

Boston, Sept. 22.—Representatives of private insurance companies opposed state health insurance for wage earners, at a hearing before the special legislative commission on social insurance. These business men affected a deep interest in the people's welfare. One speaker declared that social insurance has a tendency to remove the spirit of thrift and independence of the young men. Another opponent insisted that social insurance is a tax on the people largely for the benefit of the improvident.

PAY DUES QUARTERLY.

Cincinnati, Sept. 22.—Beginning October 1, the Pattern Makers' League of North America will install its new system of paying dues quarterly instead of weekly.

"This system is a time saver all around," says President James Wilson, "and the membership will prefer it to our present system just as soon as it gets in working order. We are the first trade union to adopt the quarterly system for the payment of dues, and we venture the opinion that it will not be long before others adopt the same system."

CONVENTION CALL OUT.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has issued a call for the thirty-seventh annual convention, to be held in Buffalo, N. Y., beginning November 12 next. Delegates must be elected at least two weeks prior to the convention and their names forwarded to Secretary Frank Morrison, A. F. of L. building, Washington, immediately after their election.

URGE UNIFORM SCALE.

Tacoma, Wash., Sept. 22.—At a conference of northwestern [illegible] printers the standardization of wage scales and working hours, with contract dates beginning and ending at the same time, was urged.